

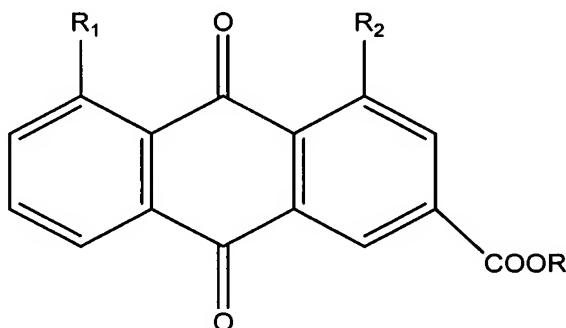
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of Use of rhein and rhein derivatives in human or veterinary therapeutics for the treatment of an affection requiring an increase of the levels of the heme oxygenase enzyme in a human or animal subject comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of rhein and rhein derivatives.

2. (Currently Amended) The method Use according to claim 1, wherein rhein and the rhein derivative are represented by the following general formula (I):



in which R represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group, or an alkaline or hearth-alkaline metal atom, R₁ and R₂, identical or different, represent a hydroxyl group or an acyloxy group of formula R' -COO- where R' is an alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

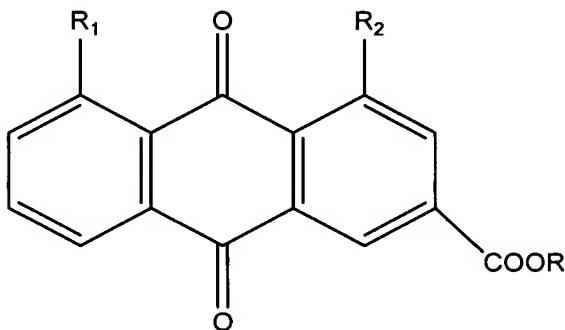
3. (Currently Amended) The method Use according to claim 2, wherein the compound of formula I derivative is rhein or diacerein.

4. (Currently Amended) The method Use according to claim 1 any of the preceding claims, wherein the rhein or rhein derivative is administered at a dose of 25 to 500 mg per day.

5. (Currently Amended) The method Use according to claim 1 any of the preceding claims, wherein the rhein or rhein derivative is administered under a form which can be administered per oral route.

6. (Currently Amended) A method Use of rhein and rhein derivatives for the manufacture of manufacturing a medicinal product for the treatment of an affection requiring an increase of the levels of the heme oxygenase enzyme comprising manufacturing rhein or rhein derivatives, wherein the medicinal product comprises rhein or rhein derivatives.

7. (Currently Amended) The method Use according to claim 6, wherein rhein and the rhein derivative are represented by the following general formula (I):



in which R represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group, or an alkaline or heart-alkaline metal atom, R₁ and R₂, identical or different, represent a hydroxyl group or an acyloxy group of formula R'-COO- where R' is an alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

8. (Currently Amended) The method Use according to claim 7, wherein the compound of formula I derivative is rhein or diacerein.

9. (Currently Amended) The method Use according to claim 6 any of claims 6 to 8, wherein the rhein or rhein derivative is administered at a dose of 25 to 500 mg per day.

10. (Currently Amended) The method Use according to claim 6 any of claims 6 to 9, wherein the rhein or rhein derivative is administered under a form which can be administered per oral route.

11. (Currently Amended) The method Use according to claim 10, wherein the unitary dose is comprised between 25 mg and 50 mg.

12. (Currently Amended) The method Use according to claim 1 any of claims 6 to 11, wherein the rhein or rhein derivative is associated with a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) or with a COX-2 inhibitor.

13. (Currently Amended) The method Use according to claim 1 any of claims 6 to 12, wherein the affection requiring an increase of the levels of the heme oxygenase enzyme treatment is intended to cure or prevent transplant rejections.

14. (Currently Amended) The method Use according to claim 1 any of claims 6 to 12, wherein the affection requiring an increase of the levels of the heme oxygenase enzyme treatment is intended to prevent and inhibit the effects of stress on cells and tissues.